

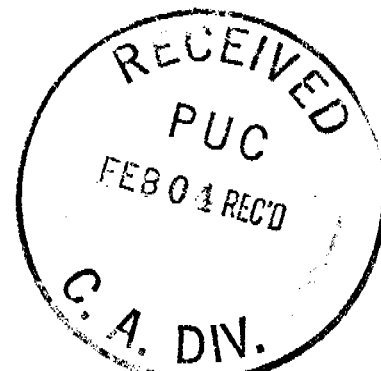
CHAIRMAN
Peter A. Bradford



COMMISSIONERS
Cheryl Harrington
David H. Moskovitz

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 State Street
State House Station 18
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018
(207) 289-3831

February 2, 1987



TO: All Non-Investor Owned Water Utilities

FROM: Barbara R. Alexander, Director, Consumer Assistance Division *BA*

SUBJECT: Applicability of 35 M.R.S.A. Section 72-A and Chapter 62 of
PUC Rules to New Meters

BULLETIN NO. 87-2

I enclose a letter which clarifies that a water utility who files a declaration of no future investment in water main extensions may not refuse to pay for meter replacement for existing customers. The letter should be self-explanatory. Please call me if you have further questions.

BA/bh

cc: Commissioners, PUC
Division Directors, PUC
Ray Hammond, PUC

CHAIRMAN
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STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 State Street
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January 20, 1987

██████████ Superintendent
██████████ Water District
██████████
██████████ Maine ██████████

Dear ██████████:

The Consumer Assistance Division received a complaint from ██████████ on December 5, 1986 which informed us that the Water District seeks to impose the cost of installing a meter to convert from a flat rate to metered rate on the customer. It is our understanding that ██████████ Water District is of the opinion that a declaration of no investment in water main extension pursuant to 35 M.R.S.A. Section 72-A includes the installations of a meter for existing customers. Although you have indicated a desire to reach an accommodation for this particular customer, I thought it would be helpful to correct what may be a misunderstanding in the interpretation of 35 M.R.S.A. Section 72-A.

35 M.R.S.A. Section 72-A is applicable to investment in a "water main extension or service line." These terms are defined as follows:

2. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, a water main extension is an extension of the pipeline, including associated appurtenances, from an existing water main to serve a previously unserved location or a location served by a seasonal main, and a service line is the pipeline including the meter and other appurtenances extending from a water main to the building or other premises served.

This definition is by its very terms applicable to new customers. Section 72-A does not address service to existing customers, except customers served by seasonal mains. Chapter 62 of the Commission's rules, Service Standards for Water Utilities, is not affected by Section 72-A. Section 3(C) requires that the cost of meters be borne by the water company and Section 3(F) requires that meter replacement and repair "necessitated by ordinary wear" be paid for by the company as well unless the damage is due to the customer.

Ltr. [REDACTED]
January 20, 1987
Page 2

I hope this clarifies our views. Please contact me if you want to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Barbara R Alexander

Barbara R. Alexander
Director
Consumer Assistance Division

BA/bh

cc: [REDACTED]
Peter Ballou, PUC
Raymond Hammond, PUC